

Date: September 8, 2008

To: The Federal Communications Commission

From: Flagstaff Unified School District No. 1, Purchasing Dept.

Re: CC Docket No. 02-6

The Purchasing department of Flagstaff Unified School District No.1 (FUSD), supports the proposed inclusion of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the eligible services list under the schools and libraries ("E-rate") program.

FUSD supports enhancing communications between and among educators, students, and parents, which can play a vital role in improving educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. "Telephone broadcast messaging" offers significant advantages and benefits over the less efficient means which schools traditionally used to reach out to students and parents, such as hand-delivered written notices and phone tree messages.

"Telephone broadcast messaging" is typically used as a means of contacting parents regarding absent or truant students, thereby facilitating increased classroom attendance. "Telephone broadcast messaging" can also be used to notify and inform parents of testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences, special events and a means for increasing participation by parents in their children's education.

"Telephone broadcast messaging" can be significantly beneficial as a vital emergency response resource in the event of weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations.

Recognizing that many schools and libraries faced limited resources and the means for accessing emerging technologies, Congress approved the E-rate program in 1996 in an effort to enhance and support their educational missions. "Telephone broadcast messaging," which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of an emerging technology that should be included within the E-rate program's eligible services list.

Sincerely,

William S. Brannen, Jr., C.P.M., ACBS
Director of Purchasing
Flagstaff Unified School District, No. 1
928-527-6061